REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-37 have been rejected. Claims 1, 14, and 24 have been amended. Support for these amendments is provided in the originally-filed specification on page 6, *inter alia*. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tajalli, et al., U.S. Patent 5,361,359 ("Tajalli"). Independent claims 1, 14, and 24 have been amended in response to the Examiner's argument that a "means for selecting" is inherently part of an application program. (See Office Action dated May 27, 2005, page 11.) However, Tajalli does not teach that the means for selecting business components and operations to be audited is a part of the application program ***being audited***. This distinction has now been explicitly stated in the independent claims. Independent claims 1, 14, and 24 and their respective dependent claims are therefore allowable for at least this reason.

The Office Action refutes Applicants' argument that Tajalli, column 15, lines 20-24 teaches away from an application program including the means for selecting business components and operations to be audited. The cited excerpt of Tajalli is repeated below:

> ... neither application programs 514 nor ordinary users 128 (even those privileged with respect to the underlying operating system) can affect the auditing or the storage of usage auditing in any way.

The Office Action states that this portion of Tajalli merely teaches that "**another** application program (emphasis in original) cannot interfere with the 'auditing or the storage of usage auditing in any way,' and not the application program *performing the auditing itself*" (emphasis added). (Office Action dated May 27, 2005, page 11.) However, Applicants submit that the means for selecting business components and operations to be audited is a part of the application program ***being audited***, as claimed, and not a part of the application program *performing the auditing*. In the cited excerpt, Tajalli does indeed teach away from an application program including "means for selecting business components and operations to be audited" during its own execution if the application program cannot affect the auditing or the storage of usage auditing in any way.

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The Office Action distinguishes the above excerpt of Tajalli by stating that the excerpt is related to operations performed during or after the auditing process, whereas the claimed "means for selecting" are "pre-auditing" steps. (Office Action dated May 27, 2005, page 11.) The Office Action further states that "application programs and ordinary users … are prevented from disabling the auditing **specified by the administrator** and from erasing or modifying the audit data **collected**." (See id., emphasis in original). To the contrary, the claimed "means for selecting" can be presented during the auditing process and clearly affect the data collected during the auditing process and later stored. Consequently, Applicants respectfully maintain their position that Tajalli teaches away from the claimed invention.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-22, 24-32 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tajalli in view of Smaha, et al., U.S. Patent 5,557,742 ("Smaha"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Limitations of independent claim 14 are shown below:

an application program comprising:
at least one business component, wherein each business component includes one or more fields;
a user interface operable to allow a user to select:
one or more of the fields, and
one or more operations to be audited on one or more of the selected fields;
a set of instructions operable to detect when the selected operations are performed by the application program on the selected fields; and
a set of instructions operable to generate an audit transaction record regarding one or more of the selected fields when the selected operations by the application program are detected; …

With regard to independent claim 14, the Office Action states that "it is implicit that the detection and the generation is a function of an application program that [is] within the AA system." (Office Action dated May 27, 2005, paragraph B, page 12.) However, the claim requires that the detection and generation be performed by instructions that are within the same application program that includes the business components and the user interface to select the fields of the business components and the operations that are to be audited. Neither Tajalli or Smaha, standing alone or in combination, teaches or suggests an application program that

includes all of the claimed functionality. Consequently, independent claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-23 are allowable over Tajalli and Smaha for at least this reason.

A new limitation of amended independent claim 24 is presented below:

> wherein the generating the list of business components, the presenting the list of business components, the allowing the user to select one or more of the business components, the presenting a list of operations, and the allowing the user to select one or more of the operations are performed by the application program being audited

With regard to independent claim 24, the Office Action states that Tajalli clearly teaches the limitation of "performing audit trail functions in an application program." (See Office Action dated May 27, 2005, paragraph C, pages 12-13.) The limitation added above clearly indicates that the audit trail functions are performed by the application program that is **being audited**. Tajalli teaches no such limitation, and thus independent claim 24 and its dependent claims 25-37 are allowable for at least this reason.

With regard to dependent claims 13, 22, and 35, the Office Action states that Smaha teaches that "a user is given control in the present embodiment of the invention." (Office Action, paragraph D, page 13.) However, the cited portion of Smaha actually states that a user "can control the present embodiment to further limit the misuses for which to search from the maximum set of all misuses." (Smaha, column 8, lines 63-67.) The statement in the Office Action was made in response to Applicants' argument that Smaha does not teach "allowing the user to restore one or more of the fields to a previous state or value" because "no user interaction is described *with reference to the states of the fields*." Applicants maintain their position that allowing the user to limit misuses does not "allow the user to restore one or more of the fields to a previous state or value," as claimed. Consequently, claims 13, 22, and 35 are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tajalli in view of Darnell et al., U.S. Patent 5,596,700 ("Darnell"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The combination of Tajalli and Darnell is cited as teaching "prompting the user to enter a comment or a description of the operation when the selected operations are detected." This rejection assumes that the limitation of detecting the selected operations is taught by Tajalli.
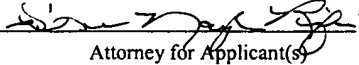
(See Office Action dated May 27, 2005, paragraph E, page 13.) Applicants do not concur with this assumption, particularly because the operations are selected via a user interface provided by the application program being audited. Furthermore, even if this assumption is taken to be true, all that remains in claim 11 for Darnell to teach is prompting a user for a comment. Applicants therefore maintain their position that claim 11 is allowable over Tajalli, Darnell, or the combination of the two.

Claims 23 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tajalli, et al., U.S. Patent 5,361,359 ("Tajalli") and Smaha, et al., U.S. Patent 5,557,742 ("Smaha") further in view of Darnell et al., U.S. Patent 5,596,700 ("Darnell"). Claims 23 and 33 are rejected for the same reasons as dependent claim 11, which has been shown to be allowable over the combination of Tajalli and Darnell. Claims 23 and 33 are therefore allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

In summary, independent claims 1, 14, and 24, and respective dependent claims 2-13, 15-23, and 25-37 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 27, 2005.

_____ ___7/27/05___
Attorney for Applicant(s)   Date of Signature

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